

Heidecke

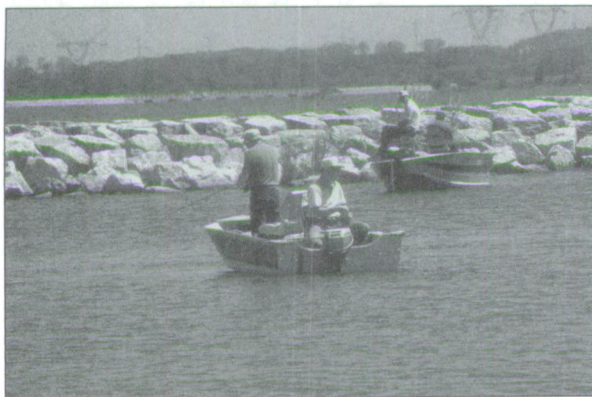
STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA



Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources

Heidecke Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area

Located southeast of Morris, Heidecke Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area is managed by the Department of Natural Resources for fishing and hunting. DNR has leased Heidecke Lake since 1978 from Midwest Generating, which built it as a cooling lake for its Collins Station plant. The lake provides more than 1,300 acres of prime fishing opportunities.



Fishing

Because of a comprehensive fish-stocking program, Heidecke Lake has a good fish population producing trophy-size bass.

Only pole-and-line fishing is permitted, with each angler limited to using two poles. There are no fishing fees, but each angler must have a valid Illinois fishing license unless exempted by law.

To avoid the possibility of overharvest and assure a good fishery, DNR's Fisheries Division has established minimum length and daily catch limits at the lake. Strict adherence to size and catch limits will result in Heidecke Lake providing a quality fishing experience now and in the future.

Fish are measured while positioned flat on a ruler from the tip of the mouth when closed to the tip of the tail when compressed. All sub-legal-size fish must be released immediately after being caught to maximize their chance for survival.

Catch-and-release fishing is encouraged for anglers who catch legal-size fish but don't want to keep them. Anglers should handle fish with care and release them immediately

after catching so the fish can survive to later provide other anglers similar recreation.

The fishing season at Heidecke Lake opens on or about April 1 each year and closes prior to the waterfowl season. Call the park at (815) 942-6352 for exact dates.

Bank fishing access is open from 6:30 a.m. to sunset. The boating access is open from 6 a.m. to sunset. Both areas are open seven days a week.

Boats

Only boats for fishing or waterfowl hunting are allowed on the lake. Each must have a gasoline-powered motor as its main propulsion unit. There is no charge for launching.

No water skiing, swimming, wading, sailboating or personal watercraft is allowed at Heidecke Lake.

Waterfowl Hunting

On Wednesdays through Sundays during waterfowl season, water sites are allocated by a lottery drawing 90 minutes before sunrise. Shooting hours are a half-hour before sunrise to 1 p.m. The lake is closed to hunting Mondays and Tuesdays. For waterfowl hunting, boats must be at least 16 feet in length and have at least a 60-inch beam with the blind built on the boat.



Deer Hunting

Shotgun and archery deer hunting are offered at Heidecke Lake. Hunting fact sheets are available by contacting the site.

Facilities

A concession near the boat-launching area rents boats and motors. The concessionaire also sells bait and food.

Overnight camping is not available at Heidecke Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area. Check the Visitor Center at adjacent Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area for information on nearby public and private campgrounds.

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area

Adjacent to Heidecke Lake is the biggest prairie remnant remaining in the "Prairie State," and one of the largest prairies in the United States. Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, totaling 2,527 acres, provides a link with Illinois' past.

Nearly 60 percent of Illinois was once covered with tall prairie grasses and broad-leaved flowering plants, known as forbs. Big bluestem, Indian grass, switch grass and cord

grass dominated much of the landscape, accented by goldenrod, New England asters, cream false indigo and shooting star. Today in Illinois, only a tiny fraction of one percent of land remains as high quality, original prairie. Consequently, Goose Lake Prairie is of historical and natural importance. It is a reminder of the terrain encountered by



Native Americans and early settlers. It also serves as a haven for wildlife, including wild ducks and geese, rare Henslow's sparrows, plains pocket gophers and larger animals such as deer and coyote.

Visitor Center

To increase your understanding and appreciation for Goose Lake Prairie, its Visitor Center features nature displays and multi-media presentations. Different programs are presented throughout the year, with a schedule available at the information counter. Groups providing advance notice can arrange videos, lectures and guided hikes with the park interpreter. Call (815) 942-2899 for more information.

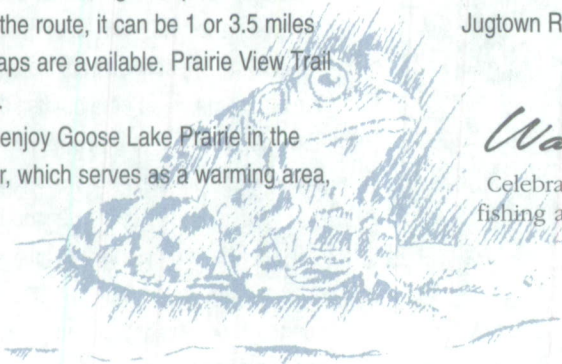
Cragg Cabin

The Youth Conservation Corps built a replica of one of the first homes in Grundy County for display at Goose Lake Prairie. John and Agnes Cragg and their six children lived in the original cabin, which was built in the late 1830s near the town of Mazon. Nicknamed "The Palace" because of its two-story design, the home served as a stop on the Old Chicago-Bloomington Teamster Trail, making it the predecessor to a truck stop.

Trails

Tallgrass Nature Trail winds through the prairie and its marshes. Depending on the route, it can be 1 or 3.5 miles long. Self-guiding trail maps are available. Prairie View Trail offers 3.5 miles of hiking.

Cross-country skiers enjoy Goose Lake Prairie in the winter. The Visitor Center, which serves as a warming area, offers ski trail maps.



For more information about Heidecke Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area, contact the site superintendent at 5010 N. Jugtown Road, Morris, IL 60450, or phone (815) 942-6352.

Water works wonders

Celebrate with us and discover just how much fun fishing and boating can be when you do it together.



If the outdoors in Illinois is where you want to be—



For only \$10, you can subscribe to *OutdoorIllinois* magazine. A publication of the Department of Natural Resources, it's the perfect source of information for outdoor enthusiasts who fish, hunt, birdwatch, camp, boat, hike, ski, bike or simply enjoy being outdoors. From stories about state park sites to season dates and features on a variety of outdoor activities, *OutdoorIllinois* has it all!

You will receive 12 issues for \$10, plus a free, full-color wall calendar in the December issue. Call toll-free in Illinois, 1-800-720-3249. Outside Illinois, call (217) 782-1687. TTY (217) 782-9175. Or send a \$10 check or money order to *OutdoorIllinois*, P.O. Box 19225, Dept. NL, Springfield, IL 62794-9225.



Heidecke State Fish & Wildlife Area

Approximately 1,300 acres of fishing opportunities

Located southeast of Morris on Pine Bluff/Lorenzo Road, midway between Route 47 and Interstate 55.

Special Regulations

Working gasoline engine required
No swimming, wading, skiing or sailing.
Boat speed limit is 40 mph.
"No wake" zones enforced.
Fish size and catch limits preserve and enhance the fisheries resources; observe posted limits

Tips

No shade, bring liquids and sun protection.
Banks are rocky, bring cushions.
Rain gear is a boater's best friend in 10+ mph winds.

Cool-water Species

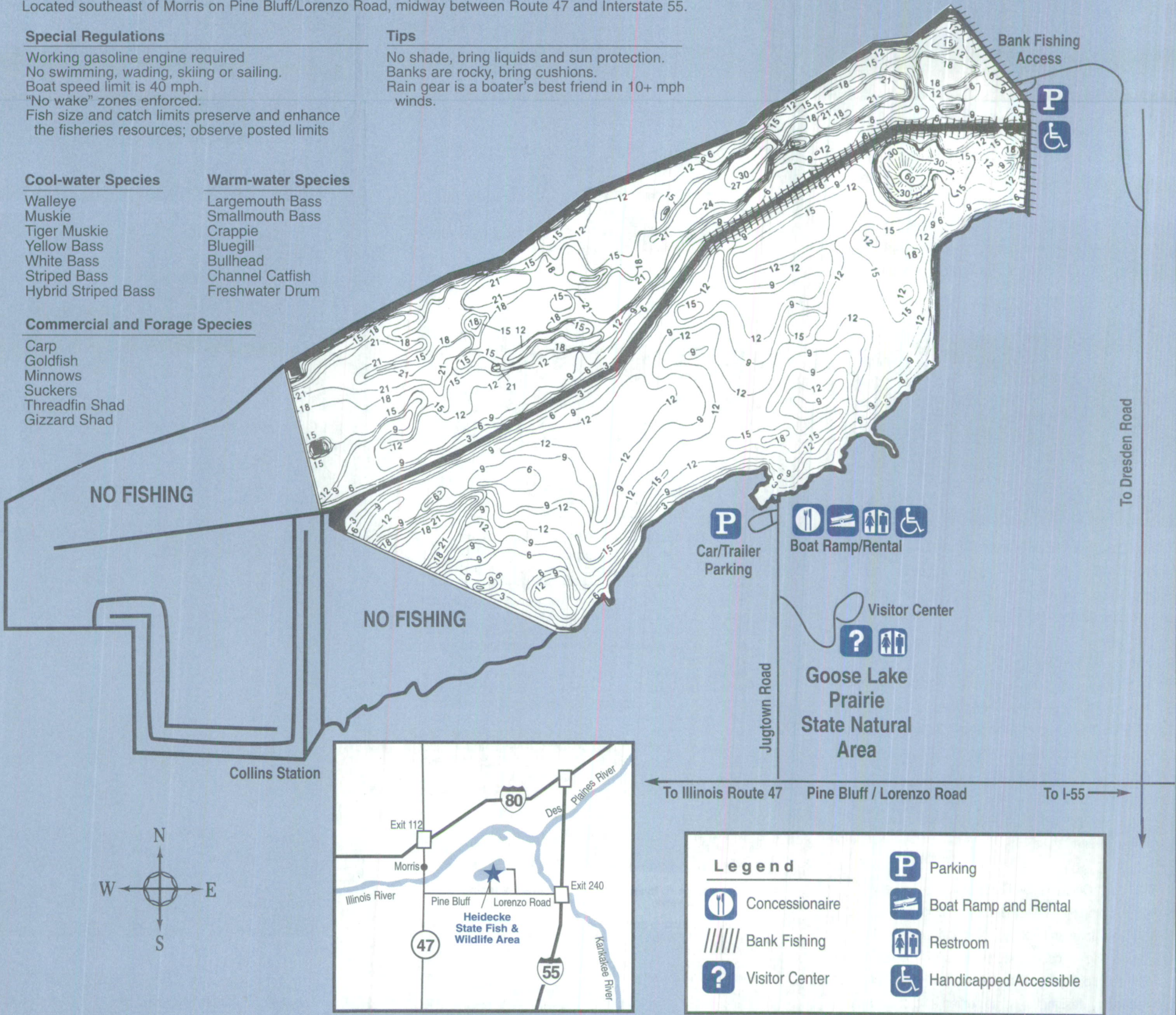
Walleye
Muskie
Tiger Muskie
Yellow Bass
White Bass
Striped Bass
Hybrid Striped Bass

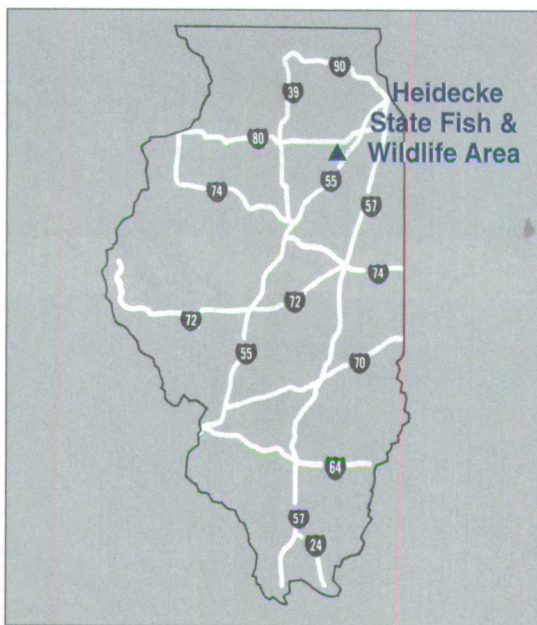
Warm-water Species

Largemouth Bass
Smallmouth Bass
Crappie
Bluegill
Bullhead
Channel Catfish
Freshwater Drum

Commercial and Forage Species

Carp
Goldfish
Minnows
Suckers
Threadfin Shad
Gizzard Shad





Heidecke State Fish & Wildlife Area

5010 N. Jugtown Road

Morris, IL 60450, (815) 942-6352

- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities.
- We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Public Services, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, call (217) 782-7454 or visit our website at <http://dnr.state.il.us>.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs' Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

Joel Brunsvold
Director

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